



Bat House Plan Modifications for the Pacific Northwest



Based on several years of experiments with bat houses, the following changes lead to a higher success rate with bats in our area.

1. Place the house so that it receives a minimum of four hours of sun daily. This is very important for a successful bat house at latitudes north of 40 degrees. (including Oregon, Washington, and northern California).
2. Paint or stain the outside of bat houses a dark color (black or dark brown, for ex.) to increase the solar heat gain of the house.
3. Bats select larger bat houses over smaller ones, because they are more temperature stable. The longer crevices also provide bats with a greater range of temperatures so that the bats can move up or down to select a comfortable temperature. A recent survey of 276 bat houses across the U.S. by Bat Conservation International revealed that 32% of small houses were occupied, 46% of medium houses held bats, and 71% of larger houses were successful.
4. Extend all vertical partitions to within 2 inches of the bottom of the house. This reduces the amount of light reflecting into the crevices & allows more bats to cluster together, making the house temperature more stable.
5. When building a bat house with an attic, make the opening to the attic at least 1 1/4 inches opening stretches across all the crevices on the cooler side of the house (this depends on where you place the house). Secure floor by nailing.
6. When mounting a bat house on a post or a tree, attach a 2 ft. wide aluminum sheet (used for newspaper printing) or sheet metal below the house to prevent climbing predators. Paint the predator guard with dark paint to reduce glare into the crevices, and enlarge the guard periodically on trees to accomodate the tree's growth.

7. When placing something on the ground below the bat house to catch the guano, do not use white or light-colored materials because these will reflect too much light into the house.

Below are some general plans for common used house plans.

